

Now that is the biggest number I have ever seen in my life. And \$9 billion, it is hard to relate to what 9 billion or \$9,700,000,000,000 is. Well, let's try to focus on how much that really is in terms maybe we can understand. If you add up all of the major wars that the United States has been involved in since we were a country, and you put 2009 dollars to those figures, this amount of money still would not cover the cost of the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the War Between the States, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, the Iraqi wars and the Afghanistan wars. We would still have enough money left over in 2009 dollars to pay for the Louisiana Purchase in 2009 dollars, the Gadsden Purchase in 2009 dollars, and Alaska in 2009 dollars with money still left over. Now that is a lot of money.

It has been estimated also that this amount of money would pay for 90 percent of all of the home mortgages in the whole United States. Now we're talking about real money. Or looking at it another way, if you divided this money up with all the people on the face of the Earth, each one of them would get about \$1,500. That is a lot of money. And yet, this is the amount of money we are going to try to spend all in the name of saving the economy and saving the country.

I question, first of all, whether or not it will work. But more importantly, where are we going to get the money? We don't have the money. So we are going to have to borrow the money. And probably we will borrow the money from our good friends over in China. Oh, they're ready to lend us money and let Americans pay interest on it.

The Congressional Budget Office has done some work, it hasn't been publicized much, about the new stimulus bill, the \$835 billion bill that just passed the Senate that is coming back to the House in a conference bill maybe tomorrow, Friday or whatever. And they said even if you spend that money, that is not going to help the economy. So now we've got two problems. One, we don't have the money. And the stimulus bill may not even help the economy.

This country has done the stimulus bill thing before. This is not the first stimulus bill. It was tried right after World War II. In fact, we now have a total of eight stimulus bills that one Congress or another has passed all in the name of trying to stimulate the economy.

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And history has shown, basically, they just didn't work. They weren't as effective as they were expected to be. So, although we have philosophical differences between this side and the other side about how to help the economy, I would submit maybe we need to step back and rather than say government's the answer in spending money

that we don't have, taking money from taxpayers who are paying their taxes and working, taking it and giving it to the government and letting the government dole it out to different special interest groups throughout the country in the effort to stimulate the economy, rather than follow that philosophy, why don't we let Americans just keep more of their own money? Do something really remarkable, tell the American public, everybody that pays taxes is going to get a tax deduction. Everybody, including corporations and small businesses.

Then, when Americans have more of their own money, they will be able to stimulate the economy by spending it the way they decide, rather than the way we decide how to spend that money. And that will give small businesses, when they have more capital, the ability to hire people to come work for them. You see, businesses, especially small businesses, are where jobs are created. They're not created by the Federal Government; they're created by the private sector. I submit we ought to try the tax cut approach.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PENCE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FORTENBERRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE KNOW WHAT THE BOTTOM LINE IS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KLEIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to be here this afternoon as I get together with a number of the members of our class of 2006. We've now finished our first 2 years, and we're beginning the third year of our service here in Washington, and it's truly an honor and a privilege to be serving on behalf of the American people, particularly at a time when the challenges are so great.

Just to boil it down very simply, all you have to do is go home, talk to your neighbors, talk to your friends, talk to the people you go to church or synagogue with, see people at the grocery store. And what you're hearing in Washington is quite different and the people that come before our committees, that represent large banks, or people that are even coming up before this Chamber. We have a respectful difference of opinion. But I think the American people know what the bottom line is. The bottom line is they are hurting, and they are hurting in numbers like we haven't seen in our lifetimes.

I spoke to my dad the other day. My dad is 80 years old. He just had his birthday, we celebrated. It was a wonderful opportunity for our family to be together. And he grew up, he was born in 1928, so he was born right at the beginning of the Depression, but he certainly lived through the 1930s and '40s, and told me what it was like and how their family had to make do, and what it took to save for that last thing that they needed, the clothes, the hand-me-downs, all the other things they did to make do.

Well, we don't live like that today, by and large. But more and more people are forced to make very, very difficult decisions about how they're going to put food on the table, pay for their mortgage, pay for their insurance, put their kids through school, buy medicine, all the most basic things.

And I'm just going to take a quick showing of a graph here that was prepared, very interesting graph. It's from our United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. And it talks about recessions, the last few recessions we had. One was in 1990, one was right after September 11, and unfortunately, the aftermath of that, and now we have the current one.

If you just look at the lines, here's the beginning of the recession. They all start at the same place, and that's zero, at the point in which there are no new jobs created but no jobs lost, what they call the beginning of the recession. And if you take a look at the blue line, that was the one from 1990, it basically, after 10, 11 months it began turning around, actually it was 9 or 10 months, began turning around; and within about 2 years it was back to normal and on its way up in a very nice steep incline, the way we like to see growth in this country. And the people that create the growth are the people that have small businesses. These are the people we're focusing on.

The one after September 11 went on a little longer, but still you saw this big increase after a period of time, a nice spectacular increase.

Well, now we take a look at this green one. This is the one, unfortunately, we're in right now. This is the recession that started a number of months ago, and it is a line that's going almost straight down. That's the level and the depth of which we're at